

FAQ

Q: When will a laboratory report be issued?

A: Time varies due to staffing resources for ownership review, coordinating any additional testing, and any CODIS hit confirmations.

Q: When will previously outsourced SAK-3 sexual assault kit(s) be returned to the submitting agency?

A: The private laboratory typically returns evidence approximately 120 days after their examination is complete.

Q: Can STR or SAK-2 cases be submitted to the private laboratory?

A: Funding is not currently available for outsourcing of STR or SAK-2 sexual assault kits.

Q: Can a LEA choose the private laboratory?

A: No. As required by the FBI's Quality Assurance Standards, the WSP Crime Laboratory cannot accept private laboratory data without prior review of their policies, procedures, and quality.

Q: An inactive case investigation has been reactivated. Can a SAK-3 case be changed to an STR category?

A: Yes! Contact your service area crime laboratory to facilitate this change or other category changes (e.g. STR to SAK-2).

Q: We have a small backlog. What should we do with our SAK-3 cases?

A: For backlogs less than ~25 cases, contact the WSP Sexual Assault Kit Outsourcing Coordinator (Denise Rodier at DNAoutsourcing@wsp.wa.gov) or your service area crime laboratory.

CONTACT

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Spokane Crime Laboratory

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Vancouver Crime Laboratory

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SAK-3 Questions:

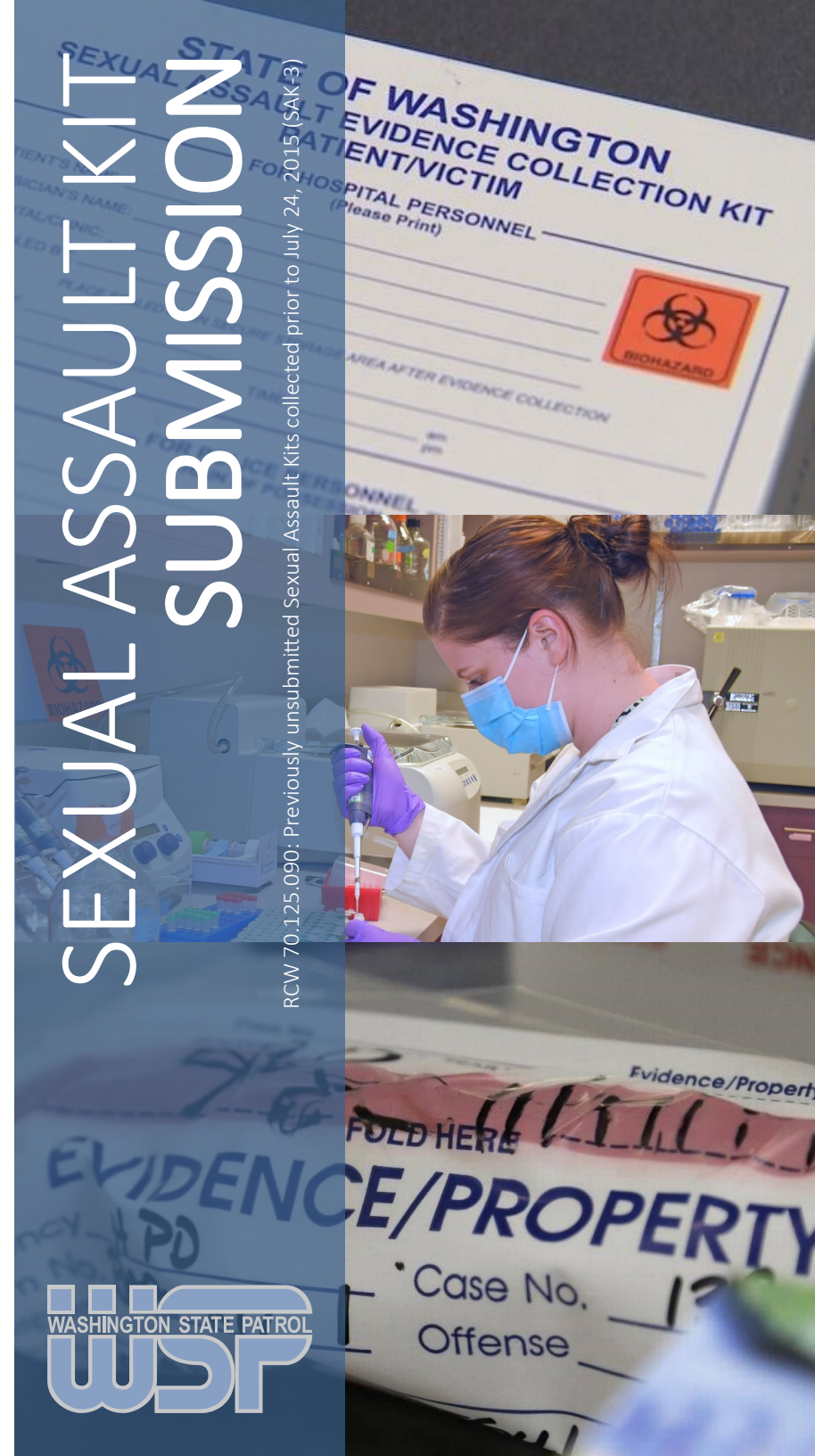
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SEXUAL ASSAULT KIT SUBMISSION

RCW 70.125.090: Previously unsubmitted Sexual Assault Kits collected prior to July 24, 2015 (SAK-3)



About SAK Cases

RCW 70.125.090 was established in July 2015. This law pertains to all sexual assault kits collected on, or after, July 24, 2015 where consent for forensic analysis has been given, and for all non-emancipated juveniles. Requests for analysis for these sexual assault kits are required to be submitted, by the law enforcement agency, for forensic testing within 30 days of receipt.

The Washington State Patrol (WSP) Crime Laboratory has designated categories for sexual assault kits:

- Sexual assault kits collected on or after July 24, 2015
 - ◊ Active investigations — STR
 - ◊ Inactive investigations — SAK-2
- Sexual assault kits collected prior to July 24, 2015
 - ◊ Active investigations — STR
 - ◊ Inactive investigations — SAK-3

A survey conducted by the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs estimated there are 6,000 or more SAK-3 cases in Washington State that require forensic testing. To address this enormous need, the WSP is contracting with a private laboratory to conduct forensic testing.

Submitting SAK-3 Cases

The WSP Crime Laboratory is not currently accepting SAK-3 cases from all agencies. Even though cases are being transferred to a private laboratory for testing, WSP Crime Laboratory Division DNA analysts must still conduct ownership review on all cases in order to upload eligible DNA profiles to the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) database. Case submission is currently being conducted on a “phased” basis. When an agency has been authorized to submit SAK-3 cases, the process is as follows:

1. Submit the following form for ***each case***:
 - **Request for Laboratory Examination (RFLE)** with only the sexual assault kit and any associated known references (e.g. consenting partner) listed as submitted items.
 - **DNA Case Supplemental Information**, including basic details of case, and any information about suspects, consenting partners, or convictions (if applicable).
 - **Authorization for Consumption of DNA Evidence**, signed and dated.

These forms may be found on the Washington State Patrol Crime Laboratory website.

2. A designated law enforcement agency (LEA) SAK-3 contact or other authorized personnel will be in charge of collating the cases for submission. This individual will email the case documentation to the crime laboratory in your service area. **DO NOT SUBMIT** the SAK-3 sexual assault kits at this time, only the paperwork.

3. All of the paperwork for the SAK-3 submissions will be retained at the crime laboratory. These case submissions are tracked primarily by date that the RFLEs are received by the crime laboratory.

4. Cases are arranged to be outsourced in batches. A WSP Crime Laboratory representative will contact the LEA when a case is included in a submission batch. This email will contain information for shipping the physical SAK-3 sexual assault kits to the private laboratory.

5. This email will also contain an attachment that has the RFLE(s) for case submissions that are authorized for shipment as well as other documentation that the private laboratory requires. The attachment must be printed and included with the SAK-3 sexual assault kits when shipped to the private laboratory.